



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

IN CASE OF ANY EMERGENCY DIAL 911

SCHOOLS

Tomball ISD 281-357-3100, www.tomballisd.net
Willow Creek Elem (K-4)..... 281-357-3080
Northpointe Int (5-6)..... 281-357-3020
Willow Wood Jr (7-8) 281-357-3030
Tomball High (9-12)..... 281-357-3220
Tomball Memorial High School..... 281-357-3230
Transportation..... 281-357-3193

SERVICES

Village Creek Management Company spectrumam.com
Email: villagecreek@spectrumam.com..... 832-500-2221
Village Creek Board Website..... myvillagecreek.com
Village Creek Website Unrelated to the Board
..... VillageCreekCommunity.com
Harris County Animal Control 281-999-3191
Lost/Found Pets Nextdoor.com
Harris County Veterinary Public Health..... 281-999-3191
Municipal District Services (24 hrs) 281-290-6503
... For water leaks, water outages, water quality, or sewer
leaks or stoppage. Street lights out & power outages.....
..... www.centerpointenergy.com/outage
Harris County traffic signal outages..... 713-881-3210
Best Trash..... 281-313-2378
customerservice@besttrash.com, and www.best-trash.com

Trash and Bulk Waste on both Tuesdays and Fridays
Recycle on Tuesdays only. Recycle only plastics (1-7), steel and
aluminum cans, cardboard, paper, plastic or paper grocery
bags, and glass (any color).

Digging? Two days prior to ANY digging in your yard, call
811 or use <http://www.lonestar811.com/>

NEWSLETTER

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Village Creek Committee Reports

Architectural Review Committee (ARC)

Steven Winter, chair; Joe Wright; and Ben Yerby

Article by Steven Winter

September, as usual, was a very light month for ARC requests. The turnaround for applications was less than five days. I learned a fundamental lesson this month that bears sharing here. Last month I requested and was approved for a total fence replacement. As part of the process, the contractor called the Utility Marking Service to mark up my yard identifying the underground locations of the services. As expected, the fence contractor did an excellent job, and the whole thing was completed in less than two days.

The next morning I woke up to large puddles in the backyard bordering the fence. It seems that I had forgotten all about the sprinkler system and portions of it were destroyed during the fence replacement. So the point here is: be sure to mark your sprinklers, landscaping light wires and anything else even remotely close to the replaced fence. After the contractors show up, it is usually too late.

Pool Committee

Gordon Watson, Chair and Stacy Cheeseman

The swimming season is officially over. The equipment was put away. Our pool management company turned off unnecessary motors. During the off-season, the Committee will recommend repairs and replacement to the Village Creek Board. We also will be involved in the new pool contract.

Landscape Committee

Sherry Watson, Chair; Laura Domangue, and Kristin Jonec

On October 10th, Pedro's Tree Service began pruning 101 trees on Lake Vista Drive and Village Creek Trail after another warning of an impending "emergency trimming" by Precinct 4. The Village Creek HOA owns another 76 street trees which we plan to prune as soon as possible.

We have completed a survey of street and sidewalk trees in Village Creek. In addition, we counted trees in landscaped beds and grass areas. A separate bid for the sidewalk areas in the large forested area will be submitted. Approximately 235+ public trees (excluding our forests) were found. After much research, it appears that the oaks in Village Creek should have received regular trimming from the time they were planted. This statement firms up what I have read: "Training young trees may be one of the most important, yet most neglected, procedures in growing oaks. These trees need to be pruned correctly when they are young in order to develop into the long-lived patriarchs that are their potential." For more information look at: <https://www.internationaloaksociety.org/sites/default/files/files/document/19-ios-journal-24-sternberg-sm.pdf>.

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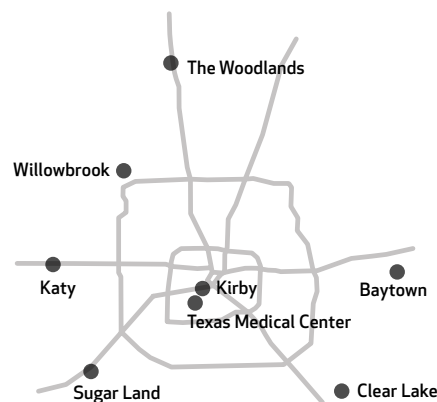
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The Voice

(Continued from Page 2)

Social Committee

Lisa Rawles, Chair

The last Social Calendar Event in 2018 is "Cookies with Santa." When? December 2, 2018 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Bring your camera and your children or grandchildren or come alone. Have some cookies and a warm drink and listen to the beautiful Christmas music. It is worth dropping by just to see all of the smiling faces. Rain or shine. Snow or sleet. Lisa and her team will be there serving up happiness.

New Community Manager

Village Creek's HOA Management Company, Spectrum, has shifted its personnel around. Our previous Community Manager, Otis Chandler, has changed assignments. We wish him well and thank him for his excellent service over the last five years.

Our new Community Manager is Kimberly Gonzalez, and we welcome her to our Community. Kimberly's direct email is KGonzalez@SpectrumAM.com or you can contact her through the contact information on Page 2 of this issue.

No Village Creek Street is Immune from a County Tree Trimming

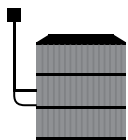
by The Editor

Until recently, I thought that the main problem with trees hanging low over streets was that they caused damage to trucks or inconvenienced drivers. That thinking changed. Recently, my wife and I were walking on one of our Village Creek sidewalks, and a large truck drove by. It happened that this truck had a ladder tied to the very top of the truck. The top of the truck hit a tree branch, and the ladder was almost ripped from its lashings and headed toward us. While it ended up hanging off the edge of the truck, the event made me realize that if it had been torn off, with slightly different conditions, anyone nearby was at risk of serious injury.

Village Creek had a wake-up call a few months ago when Harris County Precinct 4 cut one side of the trees on Lake Vista (east). That was followed up in September with a warning to the Board that Precinct 4 was about to provide a similar trimming on Lake Vista (west). While the Board has arranged to prune HOA-owned trees, homeowners are responsible for their own. What will happen if we

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The Minimalist Gardener

by Flint Sage

Freezing is possible anytime for the next four months. Make sure you drain and cover your backflow preventer (and any exposed water pipe) when a hard freeze is expected. Above all, buy plants for our USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 9a (20 to 25 Degrees F). If already planted, cover sensitive plants. Water the soil beneath plants the day before a freeze. Moist soil is excellent to help keep warmth in. Add mulch under the perennials to protect them from freezing. For the survival of the fittest gardener: Read the plant label and avoid growing plants that are susceptible to freezing here. Cannot remember our zone? All you need is your zip code: Use these words in your search: zip code, USDA, and Plant Hardiness.

By the way, if you have a hard time opening or closing the backflow preventer valves, slip a 1" diameter 24" long PVC pipe over the handles to give you some hand comfort and leverage. Hardware stores often sell short lengths.

Note that there is apparently no official definition of a hard freeze except that a predicted temperature below 32 degrees for several hours or consecutive days should be a red flag.

We are blessed that vegetables grow year 'round in Harris County. If you are a vegetable gardener, you can plant these vegetables in November: carrots, lettuce, onion multipliers, parsley, radishes, and spinach.

Pull out those annuals that die and cut back the perennials to desired height.

Watering: Watering can be greatly reduced during the winter. If there is no rain during the month, water everything at least one time. For those who use an irrigation timer, it is a good time to make the "seasonal change" as explained in your instruction manual. Remember that all plants need an occasional drink, even in the winter.

November is a great time to plant trees and bushes.

According to Texas Gardener, don't fertilize in November. Wait for spring.

Avoid pruning woody ornamentals this late in the season.

THE HOUSE DETECTIVE

The Mystery of the Incorrectly Colored Tie

by Gordon R. Watson



A few years back, my wife/secretary and I recently drove to Natchitoches, Louisiana to work on a mystery. Since we had a few off-the-clock hours, we visited two worth-visiting plantations there. On a bedroom wall of one, I am not sure which, there was an ingenious, vintage tie-rack/tie-

selection device. Now, I know that this device probably didn't fit the plantation time-frame, but it was still interesting. The man of the house could turn the knob to select the color of pants and shirt, and it would tell you which color tie to wear. I am color-deficient, so not sure how much good this would have done me and those like me. It must have bewildered the color-deficient guy of the day who almost certainly didn't know he had color issues. Frankly, none of it would make sense.

I didn't know I was color-blind until I was in high school drivers education. Through grade school, I had to read colors on Crayola Crayons to understand what they were. My wife/secretary, years ago, used little iron-on tags to number/letter my pants, shirts, and ties. The system had a paper matrix on the closet wall of some sort. It worked quite well. Eventually, all of that disappeared. Detectives wear dark trench coats with matching dark gumshoes and hat. If essential, my wife lays out my clothing.

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Online

(Continued from Page 4)

do not prune our trees? Precinct 4 will cut half of the tree (on the street side) to whatever elevation they wish. What can we do? If we all prune our trees to a height of 14' above the street such that emergency vehicles, buses, trucks, and other vehicles can easily pass, we should not have any issues. No street tree is exempt from tree pruning.



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The Voice Cooks Up Some Vittles *Baked Hash Browns*

Source unknown. Baked and given five stars by our family.

- 1 package frozen hash browns (28 or 32 ounces. You may use Southern or O'Brien's)
- 1 stick butter
- 1 bunch of green onions
- 1 can of Cream of Chicken soup
- 1 pint (2 cups) sour cream
- 1 cup sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 can of diced green chili



Heat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a 9 x 13 inch baking pan with Pam. Pour frozen hash browns into pan and spread out. Melt butter in large sauce pan. Add onions and cook until tender. Add soup, sour cream and green chili. Heat on medium until bubbly. Add cheese and stir until melted. Pour over hash

browns. Bake 45 to 60 minutes or until brown on top. You can mix this all together, and leave in refrigerator overnight before you bake, if you want.

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it's important to remember the
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